

Polling for and Transfer of Protocol Data Units in a Data Processing Network

ABSTRACT

5 A data processing network and associated method of transferring protocol data units
(PDU) is disclosed. The network comprises a first server including a first network interface card
(NIC) connecting the first server to a central switch and a second server including a second NIC
that connects the second server to the switch. The first server NIC is configured to send a low
level polling request to the second server NIC and the second server NIC is configured to
respond to the polling request with a low level transfer of buffered information to the first server.
10 The first server may comprise a management server and the second server may comprise a server
appliance that receives processing requests from an external network. The first server may
broadcast the polling request to a set of server appliances on the network. The polling request
may be issued responsive to the expiration of a timer.